THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has sponsored National Family Health Survey (NFHS), during 1998-99, covering around 90,000 ever married women in the country.

As per the findings, about 28% of births occur within the interval of 24 months at all India level. Distribution of births by birth interval does not vary much by the socio-economic characteristics/communities.

As per the survey, in India, about 45% of the births are of the order of 3 and above during 3 years prior to the survey. In States like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan more than 50% of the births are of order 3 and above while in Southern and Western States, this is less than 40%. The contribution of higher order of births 3 and above should be lowered in order to achieve small family norms as envisaged by National Population Policy, 2000.

(d) The efforts being made by the Government to control the high population growth rate are as follows:—

* An integrated and holistic programme for Reproductive and Child Health that include maternal health, child health and contraception has been in operation.
* Government has adopted a National Population Policy (NPP) in February, 2000, which provides for an inter-sectoral agenda to bring about population stabilization, with community involvement in administering family planning services.
* An Empowered Action Group has been constituted under the Chairmanship of the Union Health and Family Welfare Minister for focused attention on improving the coverage and outreach of services in demographically weaker eight States.

Cooperation with UNICEF to protect children from HIV/AIDS

3902. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have entered into a programme of cooperation with the UNICEF for five years to reduce infant maternal mortality and protect children and adolescents from HIV/AIDS;

(b) if so, the total amount to be spent by the UNICEF for this project;

(c) by when the project is likely to be launched and the names of States to be benefited in the first instance; and

(d) the other details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government and UNICEF have entered into a programme of cooperation for the years 2003—07 to reduce infant and maternal mortality and protect children and adolescents from HIV/AIDS.

(b) An amount of US $ 400 million has been allocated by UNICEF for the period 2003—07 to implement the Master Plan of Operations *inter-alia* protection of children from HIV/AIDS.

(c) The Government of India–UNICEF Master Plan of Operations for the period 2003-07 has been signed on 13 January, 2003. The States that will be benefited in the first instance include: Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Nagaland, Manipur, Bihar, U.P., Rajasthan, Orissa, Assam, West Bengal, Gujarat and Goa.

(d) The proposed programmes will be implemented in the fields of education, health, water and sanitation, child development and nutrition, advocacy, programme for children in difficult circumstances and Disability and for elimination of child labour. Protection to children from HIV/AIDS and support to integrated child development services are also included in the programme.

India's share in bio-medicine in global market

3903. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite availability of huge biological resources in the country, India's share in the global market of bio-medicine is quite negligible;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) International market of Medicinal Plant Products is about US$ 62 billion per year, out of which Indian share is Rs. 616.52 crores.

(c) The following steps have been taken to increase exports

1. The Government has established National Medicinal Plant Board for integrated development of medicinal plant sector.